

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Roy R. CASIANO et al.

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: March 11, 2004

Docket No.: 115632

For: A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of references 1-2 is discussed in the present specification.
- ☒ 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached. (Refs. 1-2)

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

TJP:amo

Date: March 11, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 115632		APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Roy R. CASIANO et al.			
				FILING DATE March 11, 2004			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1	5,922,003	07/13/1999	ANCTIL et al.			
	2	5,755,731	05/26/1998	GRINBERG			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: March 11, 2004